

AN ESPLANADE COMMISSION

A REASON FOR

FALLING

HWA WEI-AN (MALAYSIA)



CHOREOGRAPHER'S MESSAGE



When I was here in Singapore two years ago, I wrote about hope. That it's a part of me, and keeps me going on. I also mentioned *Leaf by Niggle*, and how poor old Niggle didn't have the chance to see his tree in its fullness till he had gone on his Big Journey.

I'm thankful that I haven't had to wait as long as Niggle did, or go through the same sequence of events to see *A Reason for Falling* come to its final form, but boy, has it been a long ride! And in truth, it hasn't always been hope that has kept me going. Sometimes it's been fear, or my good Asian sense of responsibility (haha!), and often, it's been tiredly putting one foot in front of another.

Hope, did I say? Trust, I think, might be a better way of thinking about how I got here. Trust that in the midst of all that happens and that will come, things will be ok, because my life is in hands bigger than my own. And that's why it's possible to take a step out into the dark.

In the words of Bilbo Baggins, *the road goes ever on and on*, and I look forward to seeing what comes next.



THANKS

As with anything significant in life, there are too many people to name here. There are many I'm indebted to, and as the Malay proverb goes, *hutang budi dibawa mati*. Some of these debts I will carry always, and those of you to whom I owe much, thank you.

More specifically, I'd like to start by thanking God, for getting me to this point. It's been a long journey with plenty of ups and downs, but through it all I haven't been alone. No, not even when lying on the floor of a dance studio, wondering about what I'm doing with my life.

To family and friends, who have supported me over the years. Your support has meant that I've been free to focus on being an artist. Your patience has given me the chance to grow, even when you've had to share in my growing pains. And you've made it fun, too, along the way.

To Dance Nucleus and Rimbun Dahan, and the teams and individuals I've worked with and encountered through these organisations. You helped me find my legs as an independent artist, and were crucial to me getting to this point. I look forward to seeing the work that your organisations will continue to do, and to interacting and hanging out whenever I'm back in the region.

To DansiT and the amazing people I encountered there, as well as Seoul Dance Center and Campbelltown Arts Centre, for the time, space, and support you provided while I worked on this piece.

To Arco Renz, Tang Fu Kuen, and Nick Power, for your guidance and insight at various points throughout the creation of this work.

To my girlfriend! For supporting me through these last few crucial months, not only in my Master's programme, but as I went through various crises leading up to the completion of the show. Your calm and encouragement helped me stay sane, these last few months.



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